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City of Lethbridge Brief to Premier, Hon ourable Peter Lougheed and Members 2
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CITY OF LETHBRIDGE BRIEF

TO

PREMIER, HONOURABLE PETER LOUGHEED

AND

MEMBERS OF THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT CABINET

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SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1973.

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City of Lethbridge
ALBERTA - CANADA

OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR,

THE HONOURABLE PETER LOUGHEED,
PREMIER OF ALBERTA,
AND MEMBERS OF THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT CABINET,

MR.PREMIER:

ON BEHALF OF THE LETHBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL IT IS A PLEASURE TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU AND BE ALLOWED THE OPPORTUNITY OF PRESENTING IN BRIEF OUTLINE FORM CONCERNS THAT FACE OUR CITY ON BOTH A SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM BASIS.

YOU WILL NOTE THAT WE HAVE ALREADY GONE ON RECORD IN CERTAIN MATTERS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND WISH TO POINT OUT THAT WE ARE NOT SIMPLY REPEATING OURSELVES, WE ARE EMPHASIZING THAT THE PROBLEMS HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED AND ARE INDEED GROWING IN MAGNITUDE.

BEFORE I OUTLINE OUR CONCERNS TO YOU, I WISH TO AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO YOU, MR.PREMIER, AND ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR FINE CABINET, THE RENEWED SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION THAT HAS ENABLED OUR CITY AND OUR REGION ON ITS UPWARD GROWTH PATTERN NOT ONLY IN THE PROVISION OF MORE AMENITIES FOR OUR CITIZENS, BETTER HOUSING, BUT ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMMES AIMED AT AMELIORATING THE SOCIAL DISPARITIES THAT EXIST IN OUR SOUTHERN ALBERTA SOCIETY. WE ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF OUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS AT PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES NOT ONLY FOR MONETARY GAINS FOR THE CITIZENS OF ALBERTA BUT FOR THE FUTURE USE OF CANADIANS IN GENERAL AND ALBERTANS IN PARTICULAR.

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NOT UNLIKE YOUR GOVERNMENT, WE AS A CITY COUNCIL AND OUR ASMINISTRATION HAVE JOINTLY MADE GREAT STRIDES IN THE DIRECTION OF IMPROVING PROPER FLOW OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OUR TWO LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND FURTHERMORE, IN CO-OPERATING IN PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE RURAL AREAS SURROUNDING THE LETHBRIDGE AREA PARTICULARLY THE COUNTY OF LETHBRIDGE.

THE FOLLOWING POINTS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY CITY COUNCIL AND ITS ADMINISTRATION AND WILL BE SUPPORTED AT A LATER DATE PREFERABLY EARLY IN THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, BY MORE EXTENSIVE BRIEFS COVERING EACH TOPIC OF CONCERN:

1 THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE PROVINCIAL FISCAL YEAR WITH THE MUNICIPAL CALENDAR YEAR FOR MONETARY AND STATISTICAL PURPOSES IS DEEMED OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF OUR CITY.

11 WE RECOMMEND THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES FROM OUR CITY WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A MAJOR COST SAVING ITEM FOR TAX PAYERS OF ALL THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA. THE CURRENT DUPLICATION OF SERVICES IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD IS NOT ONLY COSTLY BUT DOES NOT PROVIDE PROPER PERSONAL CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS NEEDS.

111 THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE ALONG WITH THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPER USE OF OUR RESOURCES PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF ELECTRICAL GENERATION. WE HAVE COMMISSIONED A MAJOR STUDY BY THE FIRM OF CH2M HILL FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING ALTERNATE METHODS OF DEALING WITH POWER GENERATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF LETHBRIDGE. IT IS OUR EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, THROUGH ITS ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER

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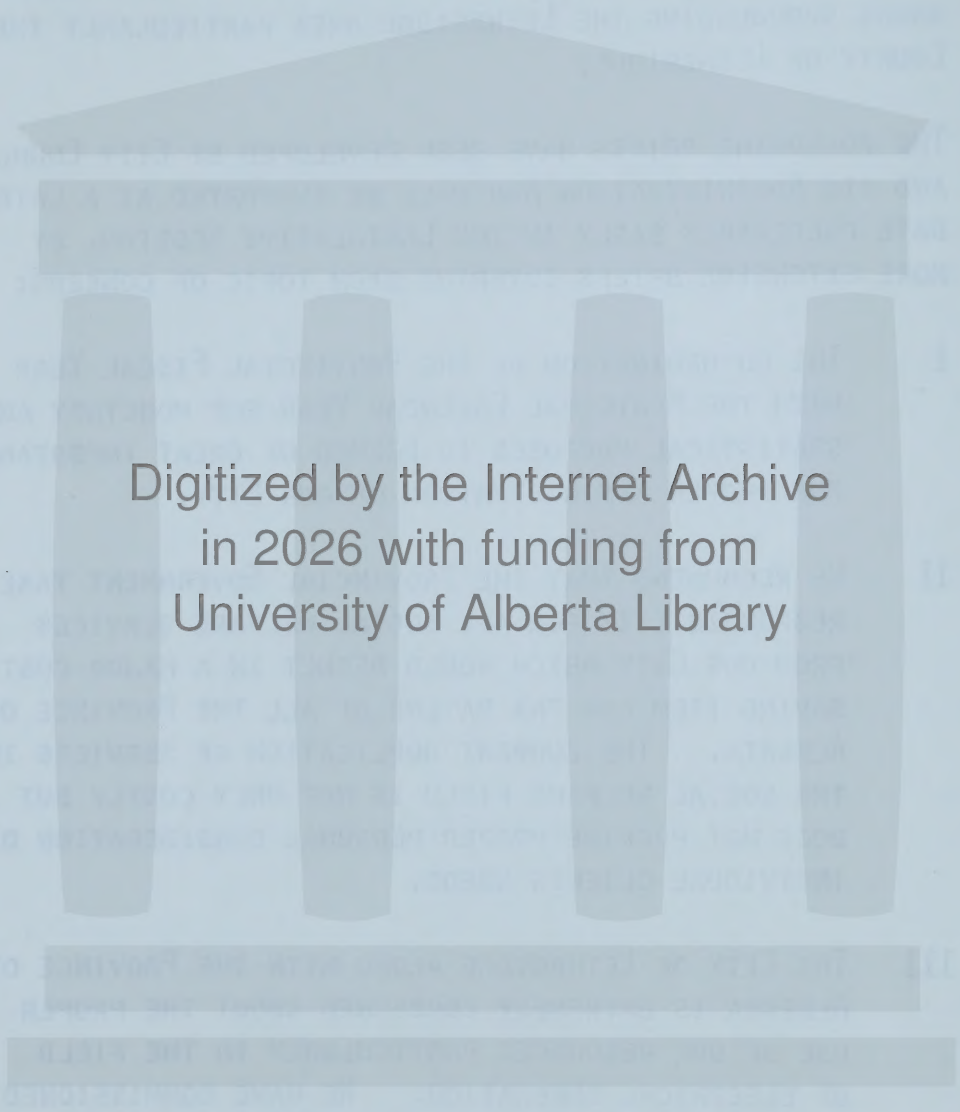
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111 CONTD

THE BRIEF THAT WILL FOLLOW FROM THIS STUDY CONCERNING POWER SUPPLY NOT ONLY TO LETHBRIDGE BUT TO ALL OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA. WE ARE NOT IMPLYING THAT WE EXPECT AS A CITY RO GENERATE POWER FOR AREAS NOW SERVED BY CALGARY POWER LTD. HOWEVER WE FEEL THAT THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF GENERATING FACILITIES AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES SHOULD BE DETERMINED FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR ALBERTA PEOPLE.

1V OUR CITY COUNCIL WISHES TO EXPRESS STRONG CONCERN OVER THE APPARENT DELAY OF POSITIVE GOVERNMENT POLICY WITH RESPECT TO WATER USE FLOWING OUT OF THE ST.MARY'S AND OLD MAN RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN INTO OUR TWO MAJOR IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND TO OUR CITY DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY. THERE APPEARS TO BE AN ABSOLUTE LIMITATION OF AVAILABLE WATER ON THE PRESENT SYSTEM WITH THE GREATEST DEMAND FOR FLOW BEING PLACED ON THE SYSTEM, DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS BY BOTH THE ST.MARY IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND LETHBRIDGE NORTHERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT.

OUR CITY MUST BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY YOUR GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE GROWING POPULATION WISE BUT ESPECIALLY BECAUSE INDUSTRY RELATED TO AGRICULTURE HAS BEGUN THE SHIFT FROM THE EASTERN POPULATION CENTRES TO OUR AREA AND PLACES ABNORMALLY HIGH DEMANDS ON A WATER SOURCE THAT CURRENTLY HAS SIGNIFICANT RESTRICTIONS WITH RESPECT TO GROWTH.

WE FEEL THAT THE PAST EFFORTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA IN FORM OF THE SASKATCHEWAN-NELSON BASIN BOARD, SHOULD BE RE-ACTIVATED FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO HELP ESTABLISH POLICY WITH RESPECT TO

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WATER FLOWS WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA SO THAT PROPER AND EQUITABLE USE OF YET ANOTHER MAJOR RESOURCE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PROTECT THE DRY BUT HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE SOUTHERN ALBERTA REGION.

ON DECEMBER 6TH, 1971, THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE OFFICIALLY APPLIED FOR AN AMENDMENT TO ITS LICENSE TO TAKE WATER FROM THE OLD MAN RIVER FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND TO INCREASE ANY AMOUNT OF WATER ALLOWED TO THE CITY FROM 25 CFPS TO 60 CFPS. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN OUR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND CITY MANAGER WITH BOTH THE FORMER WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AND THE CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WE STILL DO NOT HAVE AN ANSWER WITH RESPECT TO OUR AMENDED LICENSE. WE ASK YOUR GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE THIS CONCERN AT THE EARLIEST MOMENT.

V WHILE CONCERNING SOLID WASTE AND ESPECIALLY ABONDONED AND OTHERWISE JUNKED DERELICT AUTOMOBILE HULKS, WE ARE AWARE THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS ALLUDED TO THIS PROBLEM IN CERTAIN PIECES OF LEGISLATION AND HAS, BY ORDER OF COUNCIL PROVIDED INTERIM FUNDING FOR THE CLEAN-UP OF VARIOUS SCRAP METAL YARDS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM HAS GROWN FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN TO ATTEMPT SOLUTION BY "INTERIM" MEASURES. IT IS THEREFORE OUR PROPOSAL THAT THE GOVERNMENT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER LEGISLATION CLEARLY DEFINING GOVERNMENTAL POWERS WITH RESPECT TO THE PICK UP OF SCRAPPED AUTOMOBILES, THE PLACEMENT OF

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SAME IN HOLDING OR IMPOUNDMENT AREAS, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISPOSAL OF THESE VEHICLES. OUR CITY COUNCIL ENVISIONS THAT NEW POWERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE GRANTED EITHER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OR TO THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PROVINCE FOR PROPER POLICING AND THAT FINANCING WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED BY SOME REVENUE SOURCE RELATED TO AUTO SALES, REGISTRATION, LICENSING OR FUEL USE. NATURALLY, THE FUNDS COLLECTED SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE UNIT OF GOVERNMENT THAT IS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DERELICT AUTOMOBILE CLEAN-UP.

V1 CONTINUING IN THE VEIN OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, LETHBRIDGE INDUSTRIES HAVE REPEATEDLY CLAIMED TO US THAT THEIR COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THE MARKET PLACE HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY THE SEWER RESTRICTION PLACED ON THEM BY OUR SEWAGE BY-LAWS. THIS BY-LAW IS AIMED AT MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE TO MEET PROVINCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO THE EFFLUENT DISCHARGE INTO THE OLD MAN RIVER.

IT IS THEREFORE OUR RECOMMENDATION TO OUR GOVERNMENT THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO WORK WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EVOLVING A NATIONAL AND UNIFORM SET OF STANDARDS THAT APPLY TO INDUSTRIAL AIR, WATER AND NOISE EMISSIONS. SUCH STANDARDS IF ADOPTED NATIONALLY WOULD REMOVE COMPETITIONS BETWEEN PROVINCE OVER ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP FACTORS AND IF APPLIED UNIFORMALLY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA WOULD AT LEAST STOP COMPETITION ON THAT POINT WITHIN OUR OWN FINE PROVINCE.

V11 ONCE AGAIN WE RECOMMEND THAT THE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE METHOD TAXING

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V11 CONTD.

THE IMPROVEMENTS PLACED ON PROPERTY THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE, WITH THE GOAL IN MIND OF EQUALIZING TAXATION METHODS BETWEEN ALL SEGMENTS OF OUR ALBERTA COMMUNITY WHETHER URBAN OR RURAL, MAJOR CITY OR SMALL COMMUNITY.

V111 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT TELEPHONES IN THAT THE CROWN CORPORATION DOES NOT MAINTAIN A SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE IN THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE, SOUTHERN ALBERTA SERVICE AREA. WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE CABINET'S CONSIDERATION AMENDING THIS POLICY FOR PROVIDING CUSTOMER SERVICE.

ONCE AGAIN, I THANK YOU MR.PREMIER AND ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR CABINET FOR YOUR CONVENING OF THIS SPECIAL SESSION HERE IN THE HEART OF THE SUNNY SOUTH. I WOULD BE WRONG IF I DID NOT EXPRESS OUR COUNCIL'S APPRECIATION FOR YOUR SPECIAL CO-OPERATION IN THE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT CORE AREA. THE COMPATIBILITY OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WITH THIS CITY AND WITH WOODWARDS STORES LTD. HAS MADE A MAJOR PROJECT A REALITY. SECONDLY, ACCELERATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERCONNECTING BRIDGE TO OUR NEW TOWN WEST OF THE OLD MAN RIVER HAS GIVEN US A TWO YEAR EDGE OVER PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS. THIS MEANS AN EARLY RETURN ON OUR HEAVY INVESTMENT IN LAND DEVELOPMENT. YOUR FURTHER CO-OPERATION WITH THE CANADA GAMES SOCIETY AND THE CITY IN CONSTRUCTING THE SPORTSPLEX FOR THIS MAJOR EVENT IS HEREBY MOST GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

THEREFORE, AT THE SAME TIME WE EXPRESS A NUMBER OF CONCERNS, WE ARE NOT UNMINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT YOUR

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GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THIS CITY IN PARTICULAR. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT OUR THOUGHTS TO YOU.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A.C.ANDERSON,
MAYOR,
CITY OF LETHBRIDGE.